

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9959

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 5469

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, GR, CY

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS ON ARMS EMBARGO

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUBSTANTIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ARMS EMBARGO ISSUE, MOST MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES TUESDAY (JULY 15) CARRIED ROUTINE FRONT PAGE STORIES THAT THE TURKISH NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE CABINET WILL MEET WEDNESDAY AND THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT DISCLOSING THE "PROVISIONAL STATUS" OF COMMON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS IS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THESE MEETINGS.

2. AN EXCEPTION TO THIS ROUTINE TREATMENT WAS A TOP FRONT PAGE STORY BY MILLIYET DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT NILUFER YALCIN UNDER THE HEADLINE: "ANKARA FINDS THE PROPOSAL IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CONGRESS TOO 'CONDITIONAL.'" ACCORDING TO YALCIN: "ANKARA

POLITICAL CIRCLES ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THE PROPOSAL LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO PASSED BY THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE CONTAINS A SERIES OF CONDITIONS WHICH WILL MAKE ARMS ORDERS IMPOSSIBLE." ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THIS VIEW HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BY AMBASSADOR ESENBEL. YALCIN ALSO REPORTED THAT, IN A MESSAGE CONVEYED TO TURKEY THROUGH ESENBEL AND SENATOR KAMRAN INAN BY AMBASSADOR MACOMBER, SECRETARY KISSINGER URGED THAT TURKEY TAKE NO IRREVOCABLE STEPS OR RADICAL ACTIONS BEFORE CONGRESS CAN ACT. YALCIN ADDED THAT, ACCORDING TO "NEWS LEAKS," THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF DELAYING THE OPENING OF TALKS JULY 17 ON TURKISH-AMERICAN DEFENSE COOPERATION.

3. IN OTHER COVERAGE, BOTH GUNAYDIN AND CUMHURIYET CARRIED AN ANKARA NEWS AGENCY STORY WHICH QUOTED FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER HASAN ISIK AS PREDICTING THAT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT WILL ATTEMPT TO SAVE FACE BY ANNOUNCING THE CLOSING OF U.S. INSTALLATIONS WHILE IN FACT ONLY SUSPENDING THEIR OPERATIONS.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE YALCIN STORY, MILLIYET CARRIED A LENGTHY BACKGROUND PIECE BY CORRESPONDENT SAMI KOHEN IN WASHINGTON. KOHEN SAID THAT AN INTENSE STRUGGLE AS BUILT UP AMONG U.S. CONGRESSMEN OVER THE EMBARGO ISSUE. AMONG THE FACTORS INFLUENCING THOSE WHO OPPOSE LIFTING THE EMBARGO, KOHEN NOTED: A) THE POWER OF THE GREEK-AMERICAN LOBBY, B) STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN CONGRESS ON THE ONE HAND AND PRESIDENT FORD AND DR. KISSINGER, C) CONGRESSIONAL SENSITIVITY TO THE LETTER OF THE LAW IN THE POST-WATERGATE ATMOSPHERE, D) FEAR THAT AMERICAN ARMS WOULD BE MISUSED IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, E) THE OPIUM ISSUE, F) A "FOLLOW THE LEADER" PSYCHOLOGY AMONG SOME CONGRESSMEN, AND, FINALLY, G) THE EFFECTIVE EFFORTS OF GREEK EMBASSY PROPAGANDISTS IN WASHINGTON.

5. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT TUESDAY, GUNAYDIN DECLARED THAT THE "GOOD OLD DAYS" OF THE TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WILL NOT RETURN. THE PAPER QUESTIONS WHETHER THE "MANY-HEADED DEMIREL GOVERNMENT" WILL BE CAPABLE OF CHANGING TURKEY'S FOREIGN POLICY COURSE EVEN WITH THE SUPPORT OF PUBLIC OPINION.

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006